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From: Han, Linda (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 9:00 PM
To: Auerbach, John (DPH); ValdesLupi, Monica (DPH); Levin, Donna (DPH)
Cc: Han, Linda (DPH)
Subject: retest data
Attachments: retest for AD as chem 1 or 2 repeated by diff person 090512.xls

Attached is a cleaned up spreadsheet with 47 + 33 samples that AD did some initial testing on, for which a different chemist(s) repeated all (n=47) or some (n=33) of the original testing. The 2 sections correspond to the old IT system (2008 to present) versus the old system (2003-2008). Each retested sample is assigned the same sample number as the original, except that there is an "R" added to the end.

If we exclude the original 90 Norfolk specimens (of which 10 were tested and confirmed), we were able to find 47 other samples for which AD performed part of the original testing and a different chemist(s) performed all of the repeat testing. The identification of each of these 47 specimens was the same between initial test and retest. 39 of the 47 had net weights on repeat testing that were clearly consistent with original results (ie, within 0.11 grams)

The other 8 had weight differences as follows, where -5.09 means a loss of 5.09 grams.

-5.09
-1.45
-0.82
-0.55
-0.29
0.62
1.83
2.32

I am not sure if a loss of 0.29, or 0.55, or 0.82 grams is normal between initial and repeat testing, but more than a gram seems like it could be a lot.

The weight of some drugs may increase over time due to absorption of water from the air, but I don't know how much weight gain can be attributed to this mechanism.

The yellow highlighted samples all came from one case for which retesting occurred in July 2012.

In addition to these 47 specimens, we found an additional 33 samples for which AD was the first chemist for initial AND repeat testing, but was the second chemist only on the initial test. A different chemist was the 2nd chemist for the retest. The identifications of each of these 33 specimens was the same between initial test and retest, and all net weights were consistent between initial and retest.

Some context regarding discrepancies noted between net weights for initial and retests:

Our IT person generated a list of all repeat testing for specimens tested since 2008, for all chemists. If I select only those specimens that AD did NOT test, there were still a good number of net weight discrepancies between initial test and retest. For example, among ~150 cocaine specimens, 18 had net weight discrepancies >1 gram, 6 with discrepancies >3 g. For heroin, 3 out of ~40 had wt discrepancy >1 g. I don't know why. Maybe more material can be exhausted during the initial testing process than the number I pulled out of the air (1 gram)? Other reasons? In any case, weight discrepancies do not appear to be unique to the testing done by AD.